

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:LWSEMAKIS:JKB

APPROVED BY EUR - WSTABLER

NEA/EGY - HFMATTHEWS

UR/WE - RPGALLAGHER

EUR/WE - RDVINE

UR - JGLOWENSTEIN

S/S - WHLUERS

S/S-S - MSPENDLETON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143754

EXDIS TOSEC 266

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, IT (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ROME

1. THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND TALKING POINTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED AFTER THE SECTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE SECRETARY'S BRIEFING BOOK FOR ITALY: (S/S TEAM BRUSSELS PLEASE PREPARE FOR ROME BOOK)

2. BEGIN TEXT

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL

ITALIAN POSITION

THE ITALIANS ARE EAGER TO SEE THE CANAL RE-OPENED AND ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

US POSITION

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WE VIEW THE RE-OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL AS A LOGICAL SEQUEL
TO THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT,
AND AS A POSITIVE STEP TOWARD NORMALIZING THE SITUATION
IN THE REGION.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- THE US IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS CONNECTED WITH

\$250 MILLION FY-75 ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT HAS BEEN EARMARKED
TO COVER THE COST OF MINE-SWEEPING AND SALVAGE WORK

-- THE EGYPTIANS WILL NEED MORE ASSISTANCE TO RE-OPEN
THE CANAL THAN THE US CAN OFFER. EGYPT WILL, THEREFORE,
BE LOOKING TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES
SUCH AS THE WORLD BANK FOR HELP.

-- WE HOPE THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE AS FORTH-
COMING AS POSSIBLE IF APPROACHED BY EGYPT FOR ASSISTANCE.
END TEXT. SISCO

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